

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00833 230004Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 COME-00 /068 W
-----230017 004537 /70

O R 222315Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3439
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0833

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: ROMERO DECLARED WINNER OF ELECTORAL "HAPPENING"

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0745

1. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL FIGURES HAVE BEEN RELEASED AS YET,
THE PRESS HAS CARRIED UNOFFICIAL AND INCOMPLETE TALLIES WHICH
INDICATE THAT GENERAL CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO WILL BE ANNOUNCED
THE WINNER OF SUNDAY'S PLEBESITE BY SOMETHING APPROXIMATING A
TWO TO ONE MARGIN OVER THE OPPOSITION'S COL. ERNESTO CLARAMOUNT.
JUDGING FROM THESE EARLY RELEASES, THE NUMBERS WILL SHOW ROMERO
AND THE PCN WINNING BY HEALTHY MARGINS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT
EXCEPT SAN SALVADOR, WHERE, BY THIS MORNING, THE COUNT WAS SAID
TO BE RUNNING SOME SIXTY-FORTY IN FAVOR OF THE UNO OPPOSITION.
2. THE POLLING BOOTHS HAD HARDLY OPENED ON SUNDAY WHEN THE
OPPOSITION BEGAN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES, AND DENOUNCING
FRAUD. FROM REPORTS REACHING THE EMBASSY FROM VARIOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00833 230004Z

SOURCES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT CONTACTS, THE UNO
COMPLAINTS OF STUFFED BALLOT BOXES, HARASSMENT AND
INTIMIDATION OF ITS OBSERVERS, AND OTHER HANKY-PANKY
ACTIVITIES HAVE CONSIDERABLE BASIS IN FACT. A PDC
SPOKESMAN TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE UNO HAD
DISCOVERED THE MILITARY RADIO FREQUENCY THAT WAS USED
TO PASS ORDERS BACK AND FORTH TO THE OUTLYING POLLING

STATIONS. THE UNO CLAIMS IT TAPED, AND INVITED MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO LISTEN TO AND TAPE, RADIO TRAFFIC IN WHICH THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FRAUD AND MANIPULATION WERE TOTALLY EXPOSED. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROMISED COPIES OF THE INTERCEPTED BROADCASTS.

3. ONE GOVERNMENT SOURCE TOLD AN EMBASSY CONTACT THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD AND ORDEN (THE GOVERNMENT'S PARAMILITARY POLITICAL ARM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE) HAD RESORTED TO "VERY HEAVY-HANDED" MEANS TO ASSURE A PCN LANDSLIDE. HE ADDED THAT SUCH PRACTICES ARE A NORMAL PART OF SALVADORAN ELECTIONS, BUT THAT THIS TIME "THE COMPLAINTS WERE HEAVIER AND COMING IN EARLIER" THAN EVER BEFORE.

4. THE OPPOSITION HELD A PROTEST RALLY AND PARADE DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF FEBRUARY 21. SOMETHING AROUND 1500 TO 2000 SUPPORTERS OF CLARAMOUNT PARTICIPATED. STARTING DURING THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22, STORIES HAVE BEGUN TO FLY OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND WORKER WALKOUTS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE CITY OF SAN SALVADOR IS FULL OF RUMORS OF TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGES CAUSED BY NAILS IN THE STREETS, BUS DRIVERS LEAVING THEIR VEHICLES, AND OVERTURNED CARS. THE EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO VERIFICATION OF ANY RPT ANY OF THESE STORIES. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE TRAVELED THROUGH SAN SALVADOR HAVE SEEN LITTLE BEYOND A SCARCITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

5. COMMENT. FRAUD AND WILD RUMORS ARE A NATURAL BY-PRODUCT OF ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR. A GOOD NUMBER OF EMBASSY CONTACTS, FROM BOTH SIDES OF SUNDAY'S ELECTION PROCESS, CLAIM TO KNOW WHAT THE 'REAL FIGURES' CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 00833 230004Z

OF THE ELECTION WERE. IN THE EMBASSY'S OPINION, THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WAS TAMPERED WITH AT SO MANY POINTS, AND IN SUCH BLATANT WAYS, THAT NO ONE RPT NO ONE HAS ANY IDEA OF HOW MANY GENUINE VOTES WENT TO EACH OF THE CANDIDATES. THE EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS DOUBTS THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS DEMANDS FOR REVERSING THE APPARENT RESULTS, I.E., A ROMERO VICTORY. THE ONLY FACTOR THAT COULD BUOY THEIR SPIRITS WOULD BE IF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS DID PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD, AND NOT JUST FOR A DAY OR SO, THAT WHAT TOOK PLACE WAS A FARCE. IF VISITING CORRESPONDENTS ACTUALLY DID LEAVE WITH CASSETTES FULL OF GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO STUFF, HARRASS, AND MANIPULATE, THEN NATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT MIGHT SPARK SOMETHING.

LOZANO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTION FORECASTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANSAA00833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-1266
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770221/aaaaasjm.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1feb60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 745
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3264311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMERO DECLARED WINNER OF ELECTORAL "HAPPENING"
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, ES, PCN, (ROMERO, CARLOS HUMBERTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1feb60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009